

slide members causes the latter to close and thereby forces the segments to reduce the inside diametric dimension thereof which in turn causes compression of a shrink-ring held thereat.

The Examiner has admitted that Oetiker does not disclose a hooking mechanism with a claw member for hooking the ring or screw attachments, but he has cited Svercl et al. for teaching this feature.

Applicants respectfully disagree.

Claim 9 clearly recites a hooking mechanism that hooks the ring, the hooking mechanism having a claw member abutting on an edge face on one side of the ring on the side of the substrate and also having a movable claw member abutting on an edge face on the other side of the ring on the tip side of the specific pressing member.

In contrast, Svercl et al. only discloses "The position of the carrier 20 against the eccentric sleeve 17 is secured by a safety screw 21. The front surface of the eccentric sleeve 17 and the front surface of the carrier 20 adjacent thereto are provided with V-shaped indentments 22 which, by mutual engagement, represent, in fact, a claw clutch."

Page 14, lines 13-31 of the specification and FIG. 6 disclose this hooking mechanism in detail:

Movable claw sections 26 each as a holing unit are provided at the tips 23a, 24a of the third pressing member 23 and the fourth pressing member 24. As shown in Fig. 6, the movable claw sections 26 are provided in the step sections 23c and 24c of the third pressing member 23 and the fourth pressing member 24. Each of the movable claw sections 26 has a fixing section 26a and a movable section 26b. The fixing sections 26a are fixed to the step sections 23c and 24c, and the movable sections 26b are movably supported on the tips 23a and 24a. Furthermore, a compression spring 26c is provided between the fixing section 26a and the movable section 26b. The movable sections 26b are pushed by the compression spring 26c toward the tips 23a, 24a, and are supported by the fixing sections 26a in the state where the

movable sections 26b extend each by a prespecified length from the tops 23a, 24a. Furthermore, edge faces of the fixing section 26a and the movable section 26b facing against the tips 23a, 24a respectively are machined to tapered faces 26d.

Thus, Sverci et al. fails to teach this feature of claim 9, and the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection should be withdrawn.

In view of the remarks presented above, claims 9-16 are in allowable condition without further amendment, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 04-1105.

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Respectfully submitted,

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